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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Reception of and Attitudes Towards Foreign Radio Broadcasts.

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Foreign Radio Reception

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4. It is difficult to obtain spare radio parts. The state shops have none. To order them from sailors is perhaps the best method. New radio sets are expensive. With a buying permit a Pioneer set costs 800 zl, an Aga 1400 zl; on the free market a Pioneer set costs 1000 zl., an Aga 1800 zl. A Philips costs 2000-2500 zl. on the free market, depending on its age and condition.

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All stations are jammed as a rule, but the strength of the jamming varies. Although RFE and MADRID are most often jammed, the speakers' voices usually manage to penetrate. BBC and PARIS are not jammed quite so much. VOA is strongly jammed. The VOA broadcasts from New York are much less jammed than those from Munich. ANKARA is clearly audible when one manages to pick it up on the band. It is not much disturbed.

7. Officially the reception of foreign broadcasts is not forbidden, but extensive propaganda is made against it in the press and on Radio Warsaw. If anybody is arrested for some reason or other, his radio set is confiscated as well. Therefore, certain precautions are necessary.

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8. It is impossible to classify radio listeners in terms of social classes -- those who listen to foreign broadcasts listen to everything. One might classify them according to political convictions and temperament. Those interested primarily in news coverage listen first to RFE and then the other stations. Those who want Polish comments on events listen to MADRID. Those interested in US foreign policy listen first to VOA. Those who want special features and objective elucidation of special problems listen to BBC.

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10. News broadcasts on political events are of greatest importance. Good satires are appreciated. There should not be too much music--and what there is should be Polish, eg. such airs as 'Kasia'.

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